



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/733,929	12/11/2003	Andrew G. Berezowski	SYS-P-1250 (8364-90587)	8588
7590 09/20/2006			EXAMINER	
Patent Services Group Honeywell International, Inc. 101 Columbia Road P.O. Box 2245 Morristown, NJ 07962			PHAM, LAM P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2612	
DATE MAILED: 09/20/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/733,929

Applicant(s)

BEREZOWSKI ET AL.

Examiner

Lam P. Pham

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 June 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20-23, 25-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20-23 and 25-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 25, 41 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 25 recites the limitation "the common control element" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 41 recites the limitation "the members of the plurality " in line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Should be "the detectors".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 20-23, 25, 27-36, 39-40 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Johnson** et al. (US 6970077) in view of **Rhoades** et al. (US 6741174).

Regards **claim 20**, Johnson disclose an environment condition alarm system comprising:

a plurality (at least two nodes) of spaced apart nodes (detectors 30l, 30a, 30p, 30u), substantially all of the nodes of the plurality can communicate directly with one another via a medium (32);

at least one of the nodes includes a receiver (18) of wireless communications from a portable displaced source (18a) and circuitry (microcontroller 16) for determining that the at least one node is not a final recipient of a communication received from the portable source as seen in Figures 1-2; col. 2, lines 60-67; col. 3, lines 1-67; col. 4, lines 1-67. The detector 301 inherently has to pass along the request from 18a to 30p or 30u in order for detector 30p or 30u to provide information regarding its condition or status back to 18a.

However, Johnson fail to disclose a common control console displaced from at least some of the nodes and in communication therewith via the medium for controlling operation of nodes and displaying node' s sensor status to user.

Rhoades in same field of endeavor disclose "Environment and Hazard condition monitoring system" comprising a plurality of spaced apart nodes (each node includes sensor agent 20, interface 25 and sensors 15) and at least a common control console (user interface 35, portable device 40) communicate with each other via medium (wired or wireless via LAN 30) or medium (wireless via network 45). The common control console includes a GUI (700) for displaying node' sensors status reports to user/operator and in response, the user/operator communicates command/instruction

for setting alarm criteria, camera and damage suppression operations from the control console to the nodes for confirming sensor's status and controlling other suppression devices as seen in Figures 1-7; col. 3, lines 24 to col. 8, lines 67.

In view of Rhoades teaching, it would have been to one of ordinary skilled in the art to incorporate at least a common control console in the system of Johnson comprising a plurality of spaced apart nodes for displaying node's status to an operator/user and controlling operation of nodes at the console via two way communication.

Regards claim 21, Johnson disclose the nodes each includes circuitry for directly communicating with one another via the medium as seen in Figures 1-2; col. 3, line 59 col. 4, line 16.

Regards claim 22, Johnson disclose at least some of the nodes include at least one ambient condition sensor (temperature, humidity, gas and smoke) as seen in Figure 1; col. 2, lines 65-67; col. 3, lines 1-3.

Regards claim 23, Johnson disclose at least some of the sensors are selected from a class which includes smoke sensors, gas sensors, flame sensors, thermal sensors and others as desired as seen in Figure 1; col. 2, lines 65-67; col. 3, lines 1-3.

Regards claim 25, Johnson disclose at least some of the nodes (10) include circuitry (16a) for distinguishing received communications for nodes (request of data from nodes) from those for the common control console in order not to avoid overload as seen in Figures 1-2; col. 3, lines 3-67; col. 4, lines 1-16.

Regards claim 27, Johnson disclose members of a plurality of the nodes (30a, 30l) each includes a receiver (18) of wireless communications from a displaced source (18a) and circuitry (16a) for determining that the at least one node is not a final recipient (relay node) of the received communication and circuitry for forwarding the received communication to at least one additional node (30p, 30u and other nodes in the system not limited to the ones shown) as seen in Figures 1-2; col. 3, lines 3-67; col. 4, lines 1-16.

Regards claim 28, Johnson disclose the members of the plurality includes circuitry for forwarding the received communication to a second plurality of nodes (30p, 30u) as seen in Figures 1-2; col. 3, lines 3-67; col. 4, lines 1-16.

Regards claim 29, Johnson and Rhoades combinedly disclose the at least one additional node is the common control node (user interface 35, 40) as interpreted by examiner.

Regards claim 30, Johnson disclose a system comprising:
a plurality of at least three spaced apart nodes (30), the nodes each include communications circuitry and can communicate directly with one another via a medium;
at least some of the nodes each include a receiver (18) of wireless communications from a displaced source (18a) and circuitry for determining if the respective receiving node is a final recipient of a received communication; the detector/node 301 inherently has to pass along the request from 18a to a final recipient node, 30p or 30u in order for detector 30p or 30u to provide information regarding its condition or status back to 18a; where,

at least some of the nodes include at least one sensor selected from a class includes heat (temperature) sensors, smoke sensors and gas sensors seen in Figures 1-2; col. 2, lines 60-67; col. 3, line 1 to col. 4, line 16.

However, Johnson fail to disclose at least one of the nodes is unlike the others and one of the nodes comprising a common control element.

According to Johnson, detectors (30) are identical in construction, however, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art to realize that depending on intended purpose of monitoring, each detector/node could be configured differently from other detector to detect one or more conditions or different combinations of condition in an environment including but not limited to airborne gas, temperature, humidity as well as smoke of fire as seen in col. 2, lines 60 to col. 3, lines 3. Thus, one of the detector/node is different or unlike the others from functional perspective depending on designed choice.

Johnson still fail to disclose one of the nodes comprising a common control element for controlling operation of nodes and displaying node's sensor status to user.

Rhoades in same field of endeavor disclose "Environment and Hazard condition monitoring system" comprising a plurality of spaced apart nodes (each node includes sensor agent 20, interface 25 and sensors 15) and at least a common control console considered to be a node, (user interface 35, portable device 40) communicate with each other via medium (LAN 30) or medium (network 45). The common control console includes a GUI (700) for displaying node's sensors status, condition and alarms to user/operator and in response, the user/operator communicates command/instruction

from the control console to the nodes for confirming sensor's status and controlling other suppression devices as seen in Figures 1-7; col. 3, lines 24 to col. 8, lines 67.

In view of Rhoades teaching, it would have been to one of ordinary skilled in the art to incorporate at least a common control console as a node or element in a node in the system of Johnson comprising a plurality of spaced apart nodes for displaying node's status to an operator/user and controlling operation of nodes at the console via two way communication. In view of Rhoades and Johnson combined teaching, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art to realize that the node (control console) is unlike the other nodes (detectors).

Regards claim 31, Johnson and Rhoades combinedly disclose a common control element (control console node 35, 40) coupled to at least some members of the plurality via the medium as seen in explanation of claim 30.

Regards claim 32, Johnson disclose the receiver of wireless communications includes a second sensor (IR receiver 18) of incident radiant energy from portable device (18a) as seen in Figure 1; col. 3, lines 10-15.

Regards claim 33, Johnson disclose the second sensor is responsive to incident infrared-type signals as seen in claim 32.

Regards claim 34, Johnson disclose a portable source (18a) of radiant energy signals as seen in Figure 1; col. 3, lines 10-15.

Regards claim 35, Johnson and Rhoades combinedly disclose a system comprising:

a plurality of spaced apart nodes (30l, 30a, 30p, 30u), the nodes each include communications circuitry and can communicate with one another via a medium (wire 32);

at least some of the nodes each include a receiver (18) of wireless communications from a displaced source (18a) and circuitry for determining if the respective receiving node is a final recipient of a received communication; the detector 30l inherently has to pass along the request from 18a to a final recipient node, 30p or 30u in order for detector 30p or 30u to provide information regarding its condition or status back to 18a; where,

at least some of the nodes include at least one sensor selected from a class includes heat (temperature) sensors, smoke sensors and gas sensors with one of the nodes comprising a common control element (control console 35, 40), where the common control element includes a graphical output device (700) for operator information;

where the receiver of wireless communications includes a second sensor (IR receiver) of incident radiant energy, (claim 32);

a portable source (18a) of radiant energy signals (claim 34); and

where the portable source includes circuitry for specifying a message recipient (message identify intended node for receiving communication from the portable source) as seen in claims 30, 32-34 for explanation.

Regards claim 36, Johnson disclose the portable source includes circuitry for specifying a selected message (command) as seen in Figure 1; col. 4, lines 1-16.

Regards claim 39, Johnson disclose the command (message) is selected from a class which includes at least a message designating a test (battery test), or a message designating a location as seen in col. 3, lines 40-52.

Regards claim 40, Johnson and Rhoades combinedly teach a system comprising:

a plurality of spaced apart different nodes, the nodes each include communications circuitry and can communicate with one another via a medium;

at least some of the nodes each include a receiver (18) of wireless communications from a displaced source (18a) and circuitry for determining if the respective receiving node is a final recipient of a received communication where,

at least some of the nodes include at least one sensor selected from a class which includes heat sensors, smoke sensors and gas sensors; and

including a portable, wireless source (18a), the source includes circuitry that specifies a message recipient as seen in claims 30 and 35 for explanation.

5. Claim 26 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. in view of Rhoades et al. and **Lucas** et al. (US 5594410).

Regards claim 26, Johnson fail to disclose at least some of the nodes comprise manually operable fire indicating units. In building environment, it has been known to have heat sensors, flame or fire sensors, movement sensors and many others including manually operable fire indicating units.

Lucas in "Emergency Warning Escape System" teach of a plurality nodes including manually operable fire indicating units (20) as seen in Figures 1 and 3; col. 4,

lines 14-67. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art to include at least some nodes comprise manually operable fire indicating units in order to provide means for activated by occupants to alert others of a fire condition.

6. Claims 37-38 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al in view of Rhoades et al. and **Lennartz** et al. (US 6838988).

Regards claim 37, Johnson disclose each node provides verbal feedback to the user of the portable source in proximity of the node and fail to disclose the portable source includes circuitry for receiving communications from at least a selected node.

Lennartz in "Smoke detector with performance reporting" teach of using a handheld tester (40) for testing smoke alarms (nodes) via wireless (RF) communication link. The handheld tester having circuitry (receiver 44) for receiving test results from at least a selected node for reviewing and analyzing and transmitting to a remote location for latter processing as seen at least in Figures 1-2; col. 5, lines 15-67; col. 6, lines 67; col. 7, lines 1-30.

In view of Lennartz teaching, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art to implement a receiving circuitry in the portable source of Johnson in order to receive test results, status information from the respective node for reviewing, analyzing or transmitting to a remote location for latter processing.

Regards claim 38, Lennartz disclose the received communications include node test results as seen in claim 37.

7. Claims 41-43 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Rhoades** et al.

Regards **claim 41**, Rhoades disclose a security system comprising:
a communications medium (wired or wireless via LAN 30 or wireless network 45);
a plurality of ambient condition detectors (sensor agent 20 and sensor 15)
coupled to the medium, at least some of the detectors of the plurality each include a
wireless transceiver (antenna 80 plus transceiving circuit included in CPU 70); an
operator's system control console (user interfaces 35) coupled to the medium (via LAN
30), as seen in Figures 1-2, 7; col. 3, lines 24 to col. 4, lines 10; col. 4, lines 32-55; col.
5, lines 22-35; col. 7, lines 1-25.

However, Rhoades fail to specifically disclose the control console receives
communications from a displaced source (portable device 40) via one of the wireless
transceivers and the medium, and responsive thereto, transmits reply communications
to the displaced source via the medium and one of the wireless transceivers.

Since Rhoades disclose sensor agent (20) communicates 2-way with other
sensor agent, user interface (35) and portable device (40) via wireless medium (45) as
seen in col. 5, lines 25-35 and col. 7, lines 1-25, thus, it would have been obvious to one
of ordinary skilled in the art to recognize that the user interfaces (fixed station) and the
portable devices are capable of 2-way wireless communication indirectly via sensor
agent or directly with each other for requesting previous stored data or reporting system
problem (detectors damaged), 2-way communications in emergency situation and other
purpose as desired with a flexible system containing mobile user device (40) as well as
fixed control consoles (35). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled
in the art to provide 2-way wireless communication between the control console and a

displaced source via detector's wireless transceiver to increase system efficiency, flexibility, and usefulness.

Regards claim 42, Rhoades disclose some of the detectors are different and unlike other detectors of the plurality as seen in figure 1; some detectors contain sensor interface (25) and some detectors do not contain sensor interface (25).

Regards claim 43, Rhoades disclose at least some of the detectors (20 and 15) are in wireless communication with the control console as seen in Figure 1; col. 5, lines 25-35.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

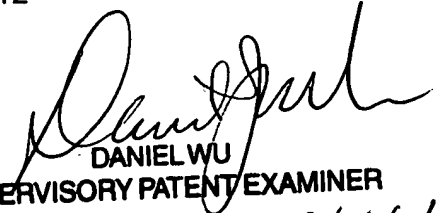
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lam P. Pham whose telephone number is 571-272-2977. The examiner can normally be reached on 10AM-7PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel J. Wu can be reached on 571-272-2964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Lam P Pham
Examiner
Art Unit 2612


DANIEL WU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
9/16/06